

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

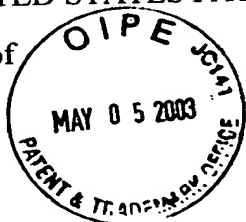
In re patent application of

Yukio Michishita

Serial No.: 09/802,986

Filed: March 12, 2001

For: LIGHT BRANCHING APPARATUS AND OPTICAL
COMMUNICATION SYSTEM USING THE SAME



Group Art Unit: 2633

Examiner: Not known

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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MAY 09 2003

Technology Center 2600

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Under the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 through §1.99 and pursuant to applicant's duty of disclosure under 37 CFR §1.56, applicant respectfully brings the following documents, cited in the European Search Report and listed on the attached form PTO-1449, to the attention of the Examiner in charge of the above-identified application. Copies of the listed documents are provided herewith for the convenience of the Examiner.

This citation does not constitute an admission that the references are relevant or material to the claims. They are only cited as constituting related art of which the applicant is aware.

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 CFR §1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicant encloses herewith a copy of a corresponding Search Report citing such documents, together with an English-language version (if not already included) of that portion of the Search Report indicating the degree of relevance found by the foreign office.

I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was the first citation of that item by a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, which occurred not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

It is respectfully requested that the listed references be considered by the Examiner and formally made of record in this application.

Please charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sean M. McGinn".

Sean M. McGinn
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Date: 5/5/03
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